

**Camas Creek  
Cooperative Weed Management Area  
End Of The Year Report  
Fiscal Year 2003**

**Office of the Camas County Weed  
Superintendent  
P.O. Box 130, Fairfield, ID 83327  
(208) 764-3512**

**Prepared by: Terry S. Lee  
Camas County Weed Superintendent/CWMA Administrator**

**Carl D. Rey  
Administrative Assistant/CWMA Steering Committee Chairman**

<p><b>This Project Funded With The Financial Assistance Of The Camas County Commissioners, Idaho State Department Of Agriculture, Private Landowners And Multiple State And Federal Land Management Agencies Working Toward A Common Goal</b></p>
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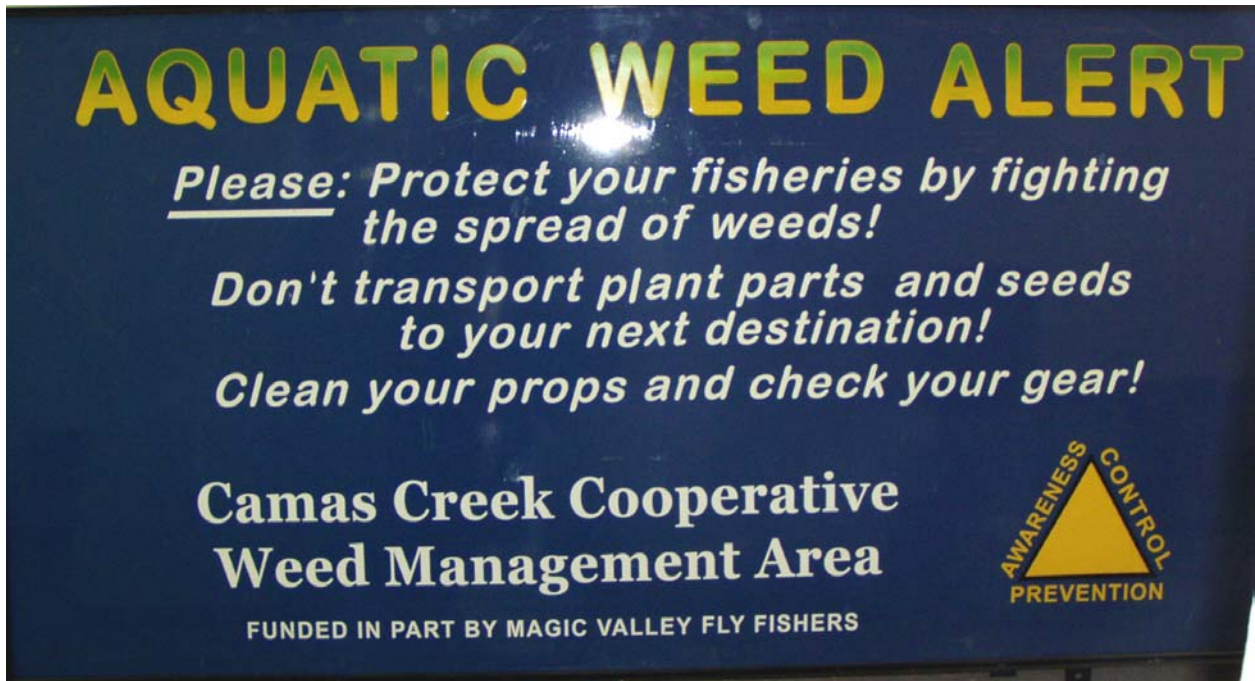
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**Camas Creek CWMA**  
**End of the Year Report For 2003**

**1). Introduction: Who Are We?:** Camas County Weed Superintendent, Terry Lee, completed his third full year with the Camas Creek CWMA in 2003; his second as CWMA Program Administrator and full-time Camas County Weed Superintendent.

In 2003, according to the CWMA's strategic plan, Terry Lee performed his duties under the direction of the nine-member Camas Creek CWMA Steering Committee (Appendix I) in completing the program's fourth full year of operations.

Carl Rey, who also serves as Camas Creek CWMA Steering Committee Chairman, continues to provide both paid and volunteer assistance in support of the Camas Creek CWMA program on a routine basis.



**Figure 1:** Signage funded in part by the Magic Valley Fly Fishers, Department of Ag and Camas County will be permanently erected at the boat launch on Mormon Reservoir in the spring of 2004. This sign is to make recreation users aware of the possible spread of Smart Weed (Polygonum amphibian emersium) that has become a problem in the reservoir.

The Camas County Commissioners continue to be very supportive of the CWMA program. This is perhaps best indicated by the degree to which they have deferred the continuing management of this growing program to an all-volunteer steering committee consisting of six private landowners and three agency advisors.

For the fourth year in a row, in addition to the Weed Superintendent's salary, the Camas County Commissioners provided one 0.5 FTE of funding and authorized the CWMA Steering Committee to hire a summertime assistant/technician, Wesley Walker, who assisted with road-side herbicide applications and maintenance duties from June through October 2003.

The Camas Creek CWMA is meeting its primary objective of proactively leveraging "other" private and public inputs and bringing resources to bear on a common problem that otherwise never would have been possible under the historical county program model.

Accordingly and based upon the goals of its strategic plan, the CWMA continues to coordinate with three county and twenty-three agency cooperators in a coordinating and cost sharing capacity in accomplishing its goals (Appendix II).

Under this model, the Camas Creek CWMA area of operations encompasses all of Camas County and approximately 860,000 acres within the hydrological boundaries of the Camas Creek Watershed. Approximately 160,000 acres of Elmore County and 25,000 acres of Blaine County are represented in this land area management unit (Appendix III).

With its headquarters office centrally located in Fairfield, the Camas Creek CWMA, in 2003, has continued to strive to create an environment of fiscal efficiency through preplanning, project prioritization, cooperation and coordination for all of the diverse land ownership interests, both public and private, within the watershed.

The underlying strategic role of this coordination, indeed the entire CWMA program, is centered around implementing cooperative actions designed to contain and control the spread of especially leafy spurge, rush skeletonweed, dalmation toadflax and diffuse knapweed to prevent declines in rangeland carrying capacities, wildlife habitat and the Camas Prairie's traditional agricultural economic base.



**Figure 2:** The only known Dalmatian Toadflax in the CWMA was discovered by Camas County Weed Superintendent Terry Lee in 2001 and has since been sprayed with a Platue application.

**2). What Are We Doing About The Problem?:** In its 2003 operating year, the Camas Creek CWMA used an integrated approach including biological control agent releases on both leafy spurge and knapweed infestations. Mechanical control methods, including pulling, bagging and burning, were applied in controlling satellite populations of both knapweed and rush skeletonweed.

Herbicides, according to label requirements, were used for containment and control as appropriate. Both professional and public education were emphasized wherever possible and included but were not limited to: Fair displays, newspaper and televised releases, development of weed awareness signage, and development of a new interpretive brochure specific to the Camas Creek CWMA (now being printed).

For a breakdown of seven categories representing the CWMA's integrated approach, both proposed and actual, see Appendix IV – a histogram entitled “Breakdown of Integrated Pest Management Approaches.”

In addition to the completion of all ISDA Cost Share projects summarized below, the program completed, for the second straight year, a contract with the Camas County Road and Bridge Department to perform roadside herbicide applications on 337 miles of Camas County roads. In consideration of this assignment of maintenance responsibilities, for the fourth straight year, Camas County paid the CWMA a lump sum cash payment of \$40,000.00.

This annual payment amount from Camas County is sufficient to cover depreciation on program-owned equipment and will allow the CWMA to begin to accrue a cash revolving fund balance. That fund will be used in the future to offset preseason bulk herbicide purchases and be dedicated to future equipment acquisition and replacement.

By offering its in-kind assistance, the CWMA has also leveraged the active participation of the City of Fairfield in a continuing weed control program on city roads, streets, alleys, waste areas and vacant lots within the city limits.

The CWMA steering committee although reluctant at first has become very supportive of the local Bio Control program known as the Fairfield Bug Crew. First started in 1998 the Bug Crew has been so successful that The South Idaho Bio Control Program was formed in 2003. This includes the CWMA's of Blaine, Elmore and Tri Counties which include Gooding, Lincoln and Jerome.

The Camas Creek Steering Committee and others alike are able to now see the benefits that have progressed over the last five years in Camas County and feel that these programs are another vital tool in the ongoing fight to control noxious weeds.

The Camas Bug Crew employed two students and a supervisor for the purpose of building and maintaining an area (insectaries) for raising *Cyphocleonus achaeus*. Private landowner, Bill Davis, donated the site near the Beehive on Elk Creek to cultivate diffuse and spotted knapweed. For a nominal fee (\$200 per year) the nearby trailer was rented for the storage of Bug Crew paraphernalia like tents, poles, rebar, and sweep nets and collection containers.

In June it became clear that two of the previous Camas Bug Crew sites were producing *Lorinus minutus* in an abundance that would allow for collection and redistribution. The Camas Bug Crew invited the Gooding and Blaine Bug Crews to participate in several harvests at the Hidden Valley site and thousands of insects were collected there for re-release in the other two counties. The Camas Bug Crew also harvested a thousand *Lorinus minutus* for release at two new sites on the western end of Camas Prairie where no insects were found.

By mid-July, the Bug Crew began finding *Cyphocleonus achaeus* adults in a moderate supply. The Crew harvested enough to propagate the new insectary and also released insects in two other tented well-monitored sites to increase the likelihood of having a crop next year. Then they once again invited Gooding and Blaine Bug Crews to participate in a harvest. From mid-July to mid-August, hundreds of insects were collected and released in the other two counties. Several new release sites in Camas County were also chosen for releases of *Lorinus minutus* and *Cyphocleonus achaeus*. The Crews were careful to leave enough *Cyphocleonus achaeus* to ensure a crop for next year.

The Camas Bug Crew attended an Entomology workshop put on by Tom Barboulitos with the USDA (Montana) doing both classroom and field work. They also participated in an aphid beetle (leafy spurge feeders) harvest, working for two days with the Blaine Bug Crew north of Arco in Antelope Valley. The insects collected there were dropped by helicopter into the Sawtooth Mountains near Shake Creek Ranger Station. In early August, the Camas, Blaine and two students from Elmore County, met at the Shake Creek Ranger Station and spent two days completing the vegetative monitoring of 17 plots as part of a USFS sponsored leafy spurge bio-control project now in its sixth year.

As per the plan of work, the Camas Bug Crew participated in a public awareness campaign, appearing in fair parades in two counties, built and maintained a "Pop A Bug" dart game booth at the Camas County fair, were interviewed for a large two page article in the Times-News Ag Weekly

An insect releases were recorded including GPS coordinates and will be submitted to Idaho Department of Agriculture.



In operating year 2003, another area in which CWMA staff dedicated a disproportionate amount of time and resources, was in the eradication of seemingly ever-increasing small and random infestations of rush skeletonweed. This new invader is arriving as wind-borne seed from eastern Elmore County. Due to the rapid spread of this species, which was only first observed on the Camas Prairie for the first time in 2000, combined with biological characteristics making it an especially difficult weed to contain and control.



**Figure 3 Burning bagged Rush Skeleton Weed at the annual stake fry and fall steering committee meeting at Carl Rey's ranch. Approximately seven full sized pickup loads were burned that day.**  
(Pictured L-R John Shelly US Forest Service; Jim Kramer Camas Creek Steering Committee; Scott Uhrig BLM)

The Camas Creek CWMA continues to place an emphasis on steering committee involvement. This is partially accomplished through frequent mailings and updates that are sent throughout the year. Although the culture at Fairfield insures that numerous impromptu meetings occur between CWMA staff and steering committee members on an almost daily basis, the steering committee held four formal meetings in 2003.

These meetings lasted an average of 2.5 hours each and allowed the committee to discuss everything from ISDA cost share projects to enforcement issues to what should be in the fair display. One meeting was held as a summer steak barbeque at steering committee chairman, Carl Rey's ranch and served to further promote what has come to be a very active, cohesive and sustainable group of volunteer committee members.



**Figure 4**  
(Pictured from L-R Dennis Strom, Gary Gill, David Simon steering committee members and Wes Walker field tech)

**“I swear that Rush Skeleton Weed plant was this tall”**

The CWMA passed its fifth audit since its inception. After having gone through the experience of an ISDA audit in 2000 and 2001, as well as a county audit in 2001 and 2002, the CWMA completed its third annual county audit by the accounting firm of Jones, Spackman, France and Basterrechea of Gooding in November 2003. Our accounting program and reporting system was upgraded in 2003.

Signage that will be used to identify CWMA boundaries and high-priority management areas were ordered and produced by a graphics design shop this summer.





Figure 5 (Camas Creek Co-Operative Weed Management Area Boundary Signs.)

The CWMA participated again this year in the Wood River RC&D–sponsored, regional herbicide pool. The Camas Creek program purchased slightly more than \$87,692.74 of product this year through this program with an estimated, overall cost savings of roughly 22% or \$19,292.40 in savings over retail price. This year’s bids were highly competed for and ended up being split among various products three ways with four separate suppliers as follows: UAP Northwest, Plant Food, Wilbur-Ellis and Simplot Soil Builders.

An herbicide storage/shipping container was acquired by the CWMA last spring and placed on county owned property for the exclusive use of the CWMA. This container has been wired for power and is saving the CWMA approximately \$1,200.00 per year in storage rental over previous years.

The CWMA scheduled a work-day in September with ISDA’s shredder truck service and sponsored a used herbicide container disposal pick-up. A total of 686 used herbicide containers that had been triple-rinsed, had labels removed, and perforated were properly disposed under this activity.

Finally, during 2003, the Camas Creek CWMA received an \$80,000.00 cost share grant through the Bureau of Land Management communities at risk fund which helped fund and make possible the completion of the rest of there cost shares that were not funded by the Department of Agriculture due to cutbacks in funding. The Camas Creek Co-Operative Weed Management Area was also able to purchase a new one ton Ford F350 Truck through this cost share which will up grade there existing fleet.

Other activities that have contributed to strengthening the Camas Creek CWMA program in 2003 are as follows: Program Administrator, Terry Lee, once again had a weed awareness booth at the local Camas County Fair in August. At the fair noxious weed hand books were given out and a TV and VCR were set up showing weed awareness tapes. Legal notices advertising herbicide application schedules and Title 22 requirements were routinely published as required; A brochure designed to specifically describe the ability to spread noxious weeds by People, Animals and ATV’s whether be by hunting or recreation alike. The Camas Creek Co-Operative Weed Management Area also donated \$500.00 to the Idaho Weed Awareness Campaign for advertising on local TV stations and in local newspapers.

**3). Breakdown of Contributions to the CWMA:** For a fast visual representation, see “Appendix V” – a pie chart entitled: “Camas Creek CWMA 2003 Coordinated Expenditures.”

Counting fire and carryover monies, the Idaho State Department of Agriculture’s Cost Share Program contributed a total of \$53,428.00 or 11% of total program inputs.

Camas County continues to provide direct fiscal support by funding all salaries, benefits and wages related to program labor from county tax revenues at \$68,549.00 per year.

Camas County also contracts with the CWMA for \$40K per year of roadside maintenance. This latter amount is paid as a lump sum cash advance to the CWMA at the beginning of each new fiscal year in October and is beginning to serve as a revolving account to offset mid-winter and early spring bulk herbicide purchases.

Total Camas County cash and in-kind contributions totaled \$108,549.00 in 2003 and represented 23% of total program inputs.

Counting the members of the CWMA Steering Committee, a total of 62 private landowners and contractors contributed extensive manpower, herbicide, equipment and technical assistance to overall program goals and demonstration projects during 2003. This resulted in private contributions totaling \$58,568.00 or 12% of total program inputs.

The Wood River RC&D contributed significant administrative time and labor in 2002 towards the letting of contracts and administering the regional herbicide purchasing pool.

In 2003, the CWMA has witnessed the Bureau of Land Management (and to a lesser degree the USFS) placement of unprecedented resources into Camas County via its efforts to perform aerial herbicide applications practices totaling \$236,000.00 in response to that environmental damage caused the Willow Creek Fire. This amount included \$80K in community at risk monies.

The BLM and USFS contributed in other, more routine ways in 2003 as well, by the BLM continuing to provide helicopter access, labor and herbicide for treatments on leafy spurge in the canyons of the lower Camas Creek drainage. The BLM also treated roadways in the vicinity of Macon Flat and West Magic this year as per what has already become a traditional division of labor between the BLM and the CWMA.

Total BLM and USFS inputs in the Camas Creek watershed this year represented 51% of program activity costs.

Total other inputs were \$8,000.00 or 2%.

Relative to their respective landholdings, the Idaho Department of Fish and Game, Idaho Department of State Lands and Idaho Transportation Department all provided extensive

in-kind contributions and assistance, including chemical, labor and/or equipment, in accomplishing overall program goals during the year. Total inputs contributed by these three agencies totaled \$6,329.00 or 1% of total program inputs.

**4). What are the CWMA's Plans for Next Year?:** The plans for 2003 are relatively simple (See Annual Work Plan Advice 2004 – Submitted as a supplemental report). The CWMA will strive to maintain the status quo it has achieved in terms of building and maintaining cooperator and private landowner participation.

The plan is not necessarily to expand but rather to do a very good job at what is starting to become routine. The program will strive to accomplish, on budget, those cost share items submitted as part of its 2004 ISDA cost share request.

The program will fundamentally continue to provide for the long-term success of the program, and to comply with ISDA reporting requirements.

The CWMA is in the process of acquiring funds and is planning to build its own office and equipment storage building. It is a goal of the steering committee and County Commissioners that this project will be completed in 2004.

**5). Comments:** A perfect safety record was recorded again for 2003. The addition of two digital wind gauges, has added a significant level of increased accuracy in conducting roadside herbicide application for the CWMA program.

**Respectfully Submitted,**

**Terry S. Lee, Camas County Weed Superintendent**

**Carl D. Rey, Camas Creek CWMA Steering Committee Chairman**

**Ron Chapman, Camas County Board of Commissioners Chairman**

## **Appendix I: Steering Committee**

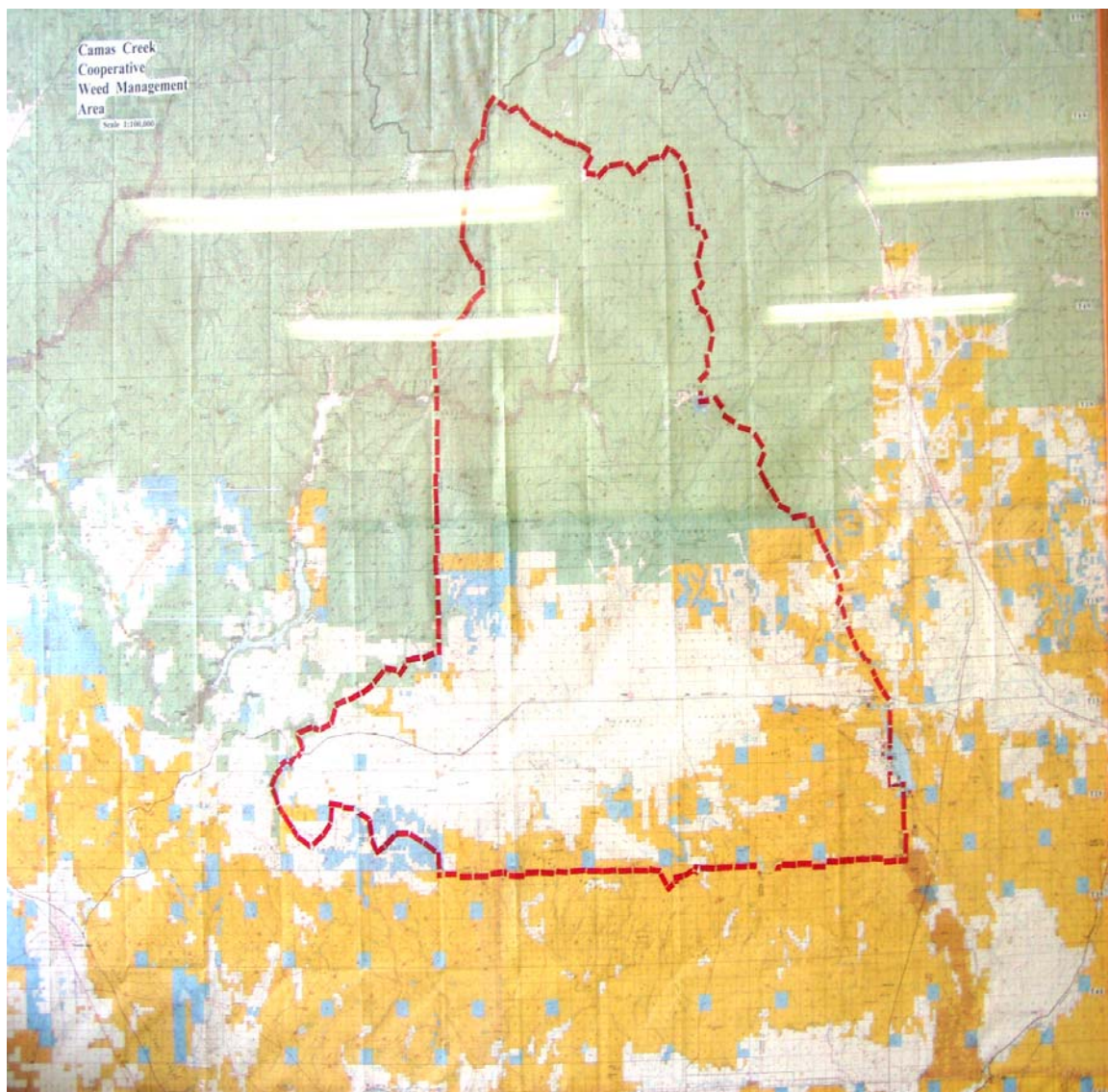
<b>Gary Gill P.O. Box 458, Fairfield, Idaho 83327</b>	<b>764-2520</b>
<b>Terry Gregory P.O. Box 128, Hill City, Idaho 83337</b> (Advisory Position Representing Idaho Department of Fish and Game)	<b>764-2489</b>
<b>Jim Kramer Rt. 1 Box 1065, Fairfield, Idaho 83327</b> (Steering Committee Secretary)	<b>764-2378</b>
<b>Carl Rey Hot Springs Ranch, Rt. 1 Box 2015</b> <b>Corral, Idaho 83322 (Steering Committee chairman)</b>	<b>764-2924</b> Email: <a href="mailto:crey2000@yahoo.com">crey2000@yahoo.com</a>
<b>John Shelly Fairfield Ranger District, P.O. Box 189</b> <b>Fairfield, Idaho 83327 (Advisory Position Representing U.S.F.S.)</b>	<b>764-3202</b>
<b>David Simon P.O. Box 545, Fairfield, Idaho 83327</b>	<b>764-2345</b>
<b>Dennis Strom P.O. Box 137, Hill City, Idaho 83337</b>	<b>764-2596</b>
<b>Scott Uhrig P.O. Box 2 B, Shoshone, Idaho 83352</b> (Advisory Position Representing Bureau of Land Management)	<b>732-7232</b>
<b>Max Wilson Rt. 1 Box 2045, Corral, Idaho 83322</b>	<b>764-2306</b>

## Appendix II: Project Summaries

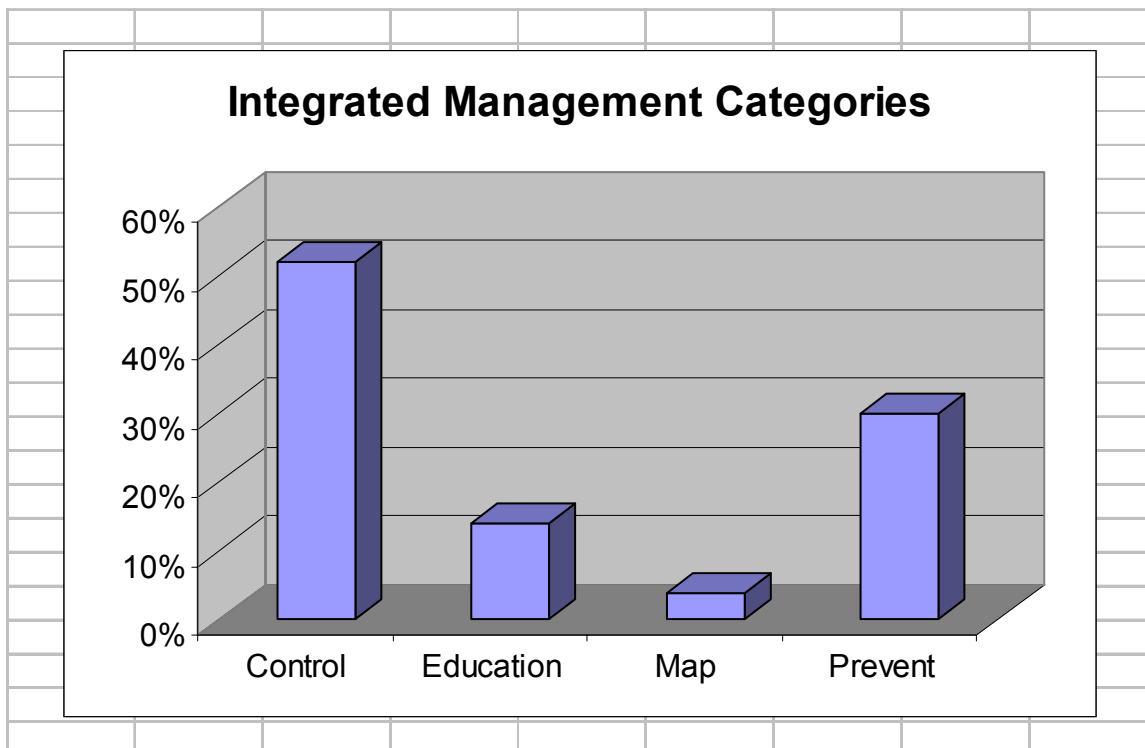
<u>Project Name</u>	<u>Weed Species</u>	<u>Acres Treated</u>
Fairfield City Project	Diffuse Knapweed	60
	Canada thistle	10
	Hoary Cress	5
	Kochia	5
	Duck Weed	6
Willow Creek Fire	Diffuse Knapweed	4,800
	Rush Skeletonweed	10
	Leafy Spurge	40
Moonstone Demonstration	Diffuse Knapweed	700
Biological Control Project	Diffuse Knapweed	1,200
Leafy Spurge Project	Leafy Spurge	1,800
Private Lands Outreach	Diffuse Knapweed	5,000
	Canada thistle	500
	Rush Skeletonweed	100
	White Top	600
	Spotted Knapweed	100
Elmore County Roads	Bull Thistle	200
	Diffuse Knapweed	100
	Canada thistle	75
Mormon Reservoir	Smart Weed	50
Camas County Roads	Diffuse Knapweed	150
	Rush Skeketonweed	10
	White Top	300
	Field bindweed	450
	Kochia Weed	300
	Canada Thistle	500



### Appendix III Map of CWMA



## APPENDIX IV: HISTOGRAM



## APPENDIX V: PIE CHART

### Camas Creek CWMA 2003 Coordinated Expenditures

